

Abstract of the Disclosure

Many home entertainment systems include a video cassette recorder or other recording device that has an automatic recording feature. The automatic recording feature, which automatically starts a scheduled recording without user intervention, may start recording without enough recording tape to complete the scheduled recording or may inadvertently over-record a one-of-a-kind recording of a birth, marriage, or graduation. Accordingly, one embodiment of the present invention includes a receiver for receiving a channel signal which carries a plurality of programs; a recording device for recording one of the programs; and an output device for outputting a reminder signal before the recording device begins recording the one program. In preferred embodiments, the output device includes a reminder database for storing a remind time that determines when the reminder signal is output, and the reminder signal provides a message concerning recording media. Thus, the present invention prevents the loss of data recording opportunities, but also guards against over-recording one-of-a-kind recordings.

"Express Mail" mailing label no. EM04196829US
Date of Deposit: January 5, 1998
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Jan 5 1998
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